

One Hundred Eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the seventh day of January, two thousand and three*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States;
Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 1 in every 12 Americans will suffer at least 1 seizure;
Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will develop epilepsy by the time they are 75;
Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;
Whereas a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrated that the hardships imposed by epilepsy are comparable to those imposed by cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;
Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to leading a normal life by affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;
Whereas uncontrollable seizures in a child can create multiple problems affecting the child's development, education, socialization, and daily life activities;
Whereas the social stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination, and isolates people who suffer from seizure disorders from mainstream life;
Whereas a significant number of people with epilepsy may lack access to medical care for the treatment of the disease;
Whereas in spite of these formidable obstacles, people with epilepsy can live healthy and productive lives and make significant contributions to society;
Whereas November is an appropriate month to designate as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month"; and
Whereas the designation of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" would help to focus attention on, and increase understanding of, epilepsy and those people who suffer from it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month";
- (2) requests the President to issue a proclamation declaring a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month";
- (3) calls upon the American people to observe "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" with appropriate programs and activities; and

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(4) urges support for epilepsy research programs at the National Institutes of Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.